

A PROTEGE OF MELBA

ADA PALMER WALKER COMES TO WILLOWOOD TO-MORROW NIGHT.

The Summer Opera Scheme Has Been a Decided Success—"Chimes of Normandy" This Week.

Even the most cynical are forced to admit that summer opera in Indianapolis is a success. As a money-making enterprise—something, by the way, never intended—directors of Willowood Theater do not expect to grow any richer from it. As one of the gentlemen connected with the scheme said Friday night, while a crowd was pouring through the Illinois-street gate to the performance of the "Mikado," the management will not try to lay up any money, but will expend the profits, and more, too, in keeping a first-class company here as long as the season lasts and in putting the theater in shape. It is already demonstrated that a summer theater with a high-class company can be run on a paying basis with an admission fee so low that the same people can turn out every night in the week, if they like, and yet have it cost them no more than one reserved-seat ticket to a first-class winter show. The directors have evidently caught a cue in low prices for popularizing Willowood. While there remains little to be desired to make the accommodations equal to any open-air theater in the larger cities, where summer opera has long been an established enterprise, it is intended to add much more in the way of improving the already popular resort on Fall Creek.

Beginning with tomorrow night, the opera company will have something special to offer in the shape of a new star—Miss Ada Palmer Walker, who came to this country from Australia, recommended as only the great ones have been. Miss Walker had been engaged as prima donna for the summer at Uhlrig's Cave, St. Louis, but owing to a variety-theater innovation at the Cave, which is now being run in connection with a beer garden, Miss Walker refused to remain at Uhlrig's, and was immediately signed for Indianapolis at a high salary. Helen Bertram, with whom the local management was negotiating, has succeeded Miss Walker in St. Louis, and the local directors are congratulating themselves on their good fortune in obtaining the Australian prima donna, who makes her debut in Indianapolis to-morrow night. It all but true that was said of Miss Walker in New York last winter, the Bertram woman is not even in her class.

Miss Walker arrived here the day of the opening at Willowood. She has already met a number of music lovers of this city, and has created somewhat of a sensation on account of her winning appearance, bright intellectual face and extremely entertaining conversational powers. Being highly cultured, and having traveled widely, she has a fund of unusual information and stories of her experiences in Australia, India, Africa and Asia, with which she can entertain a roomful with pleasure and little effort. She is blessed with more beauty than the ordinary mortal. Her hair is almost golden in color, her eyes blue as violets and sparkling as jewels, while her mouth even in repose, wears a continuous smile. Her voice—well, you will know all about that when she sings to-morrow night. A few favored ones heard Miss Walker at rehearsals last week and were unanimous in their opinion of her talents. New York critics have predicted for her a career greater even than that of Melba. Her soprano voice is directed by the great singer, who is now a recognized queen of song in three continents. The story of Miss Walker's life is full of interest. She was only thirteen years old when taken under Melba's wing, and she has since been under the power and beauty of her voice did not attract the theatrical managers until she succeeded Melba as prima donna at the Sydney Cathedral at Melbourne. Three months later she was under a three years' contract with Messrs. Williamson, Garrick & May, the greatest dramatic and theatrical combination of the antipodes. During her engagement with these gentlemen, she appeared in every prominent city in Australia. She began in minor parts, and by the force of her acting, her dramatic talents being spoken of as unusually fine for a singer, she was advanced rapidly. When Melba left for Europe Miss Walker succeeded her as prima donna, and during her engagement she made two tours of India, one to Africa and two through China and Japan. Miss Walker tells an interesting tale of her performance in Japan, when the company gave "The Mikado," its first presentation in that country. It was the leading role in every one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, except "Ruddigore" and has a repertoire of thirty-one operas in all. To this list she will add a new one this week, when "Billie Taylor" will put on Miss Willowood. Miss Walker made her debut in Canada last season, and was immediately signed by Rudolph Aronson for Gilbert and Sullivan operas by J. W. with which the New York Casino reopened in February. She is now under a two years' contract with the same management. Arrangements are being made for a distinct reception when Miss Walker appears to-morrow night, and those who have heard her singing will be off in their guess if she does not receive an ovation. She will probably sing a popular song, "The Chimes of Normandy." Several members of the Temple Opera Company have become favorites since the summer night at the Willowood. The names of the singers is now recognized. Edward Temple, who made a distinct hit as Kokoi in "The Chimes of Normandy," as a character actor, Mr. Temple has a fine reputation, and the famous miser in the "Chimes" will be in most competent hands. Charles Huntington, who has been a comedy honors with Mr. Temple last week, and will have as good an opportunity this week as he had last, to show that he is much better cast as the notary than as Ne-Na. Harold Blake should make an ideal Jean in the "Chimes," and will be heard to good advantage in the beautiful tenor songs of Piquette's ever popular opera, "The Chimes of Normandy." So droll as Poo-bah, will become the Marguerite de Lucevay. The role of the vixenish Countess should fit Cecilia Evans as a glove. This bright-faced little woman has received much favor for her singing and acting here, and will continue a favorite. It is to be regretted that the "Chimes" offers no suitable contralto role for Miss Minnie Bennett. Miss Bennett made a hit as Katisha, but will not be heard again before the last of the week, when "Billie Taylor" is to be heard. Miss Josephine Knapp is more than made up by the new prima donna, Miss Walker. There will also be a new leader for the orchestra this week, as Mr. McGhee left for New York with Miss Knapp, who is his wife. The new leader, Mr. Miller, of the Grand has been giving excellent satisfaction, and will be under the direction of Alexander Haig during the rest of the summer opera season. Director Haig was at Cincinnati for years, and since has been connected with several popular opera companies on the road.

Notes of the Stage.

Robert Downing has a new play by Sardou called "Helen," which he will produce at the Willowood Theater. Arthur P. Clark, an ex-journalist of Chicago, now a theatrical manager, has inherited \$20,000 by the death of his grandfather, H. S. Farnham, which took place at Keokuk last week.

The cooler weather of the past week has had a favorable effect on the attendance at the theaters. Daly's came in for a fair share of patronage, including several members of the royal family.

M. B. Curtis gave a trial matinee of "Samuel of Posen" at the Gaiety Theater in London last week. The house was so full that the newspapers have united in a chorus of commendation, and express wonder at the fact that "Samuel of Posen" was successful in the United States.

Beechboro Tree is now engaged in securing a cast for "The Chimes of Normandy" during last week that Du Maurier took as his model for little Billie as a professional singer. The production of "The Chimes of Normandy" at Daly's London theater has excited much diverse criticism. There has been praise for the manner in which it is mounted and objected to the manner in which Mr. Daly interpolated music in the production.

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SHAKESPEARE'S TEXT.

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CYCLING FOR PRIZES

RECORDS OF THE L. A. W. NATIONAL CIRCUIT CHASERS.

Eddie Cannon Bald Still in the Lead, with Cabanne Second—Professionalism Come to Stay.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

NEW YORK, July 4.—The past week in cycling circles, as far as racing goes, has been without anything of special note. The men of the path have been scattered over the country, and there has hardly been a fair representation in the two days' racing of the week. For New York this was to be expected, for the men have some feeling against the new track at Manhattan beach, owing to the treatment accorded to some of the teams in regard to the entries of the men at the meet of the 15th of this month. The race meet at Buffalo on the 4th took a number away from Paterson and the Bridgeport meet of the 4th, at which there was a fair attendance of the cracks, the day being a holiday, was a failure owing to rain which fell all the afternoon. The last meet on the circuit before the national meet and championships at Asbury Park will be the slimmest, as far as the entries of the men go, that has been seen this season. New York's slaughter pen it was called last season when scores of men fell on the poor Manhattan field track, and the men are not looking for serious falls just prior to the national meet. Asbury Park will have every one of the American crack riders, and it is too bad that the great summer resort has not a better track for the men to fight for the championships on, the present track being fast but dangerous at the last turn. It was the promise that this should be attended to when the meet was obtained for Asbury Park. Following Asbury Park, the main circuit chasing will begin, and the party of nearly a hundred will be together for the first time in the season. From Asbury Park the circuit-chasers will go westward, stopping at Baltimore, and then into Pennsylvania to Williamsport, which meet a number of the men will cut for the Battle Creek meet in Michigan. Then into Ohio, where the cities are all prosperously and are vying with each other in giving successful meets. There are more National Circuit points in Ohio this season than ever before, and for two weeks the circuit runs through Ohio, and makes two points in Indiana before reaching Chicago. The trip to Minneapolis is a long one, and it is very doubtful if a great number of the party will take it, Minneapolis having a reputation for treating the men anything but well in the past. The new organization that will give the meet this season is determined that the party shall leave there without the usual trouble and consequent bad feeling. The Canadian circuit, which will follow Marinette, in Wisconsin, Milwaukee and Mount Clemens, Mich., composed of seven cities, and is to be one of the main features of the circuit this season, as but few of the men have been in that territory.

For the meets in the State of Ohio two cities are going to make a reputation, and incidentally advertise their towns, by giving record meets. These cities are Wauseon and Newark. The latter city is giving \$2,000 worth of prizes for the one day, and is conducting the races to the B events and to the C events. Wauseon, Ga. and Newark, N. J., are the cities who are giving the meet. The professional issue has been settled, and the circuit will be run by the amateurs and out for the cash long before the meet is pulled off, wherein they are not far from the truth. The meet will be an innovation, consisting of diamonds, offered at the cost price and redeemable at the end of the season. The program, if the rider so desires and wishes to turn professional, Newark's track is located in a wooded area, composed of seven cities, and is to be one of the main features of the circuit this season, as but few of the men have been in that territory.

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This year's invasion of London by Americans is the strongest ever known. They are to be seen at every turn, occupying the best apartments in all the popular hotels and visiting all places of interest. The leading restaurants are packed with them, and they half fill the theaters nightly. Finally, the Americans flock in crowds to the big music halls, and enjoy themselves generally in every way possible. They are good customers everywhere, free with their money and content only with the best of everything. Therefore, it need hardly be added, the London hotel keepers, restaurateurs and public entertainers are not grumbling at the so-called annual invasion.

If proof was needed of the presence here of a multitude of Americans it was furnished by the crowds of patriotic citizens of the United States who attended the several Independence day celebrations in London on Thursday last, and on Saturday, the screaming of the eagle on those occasions seemed to give the lion a certain degree of healthy satisfaction. The Daily News, for instance, commenting yesterday on the banquet of the American Society at Hilborne restaurant, said: "American Independence day was celebrated in London more publicly than on previous occasions. This is as it should be; the day brings no bitter memory to the present generation of Englishmen. But for that day and its lessons our empire might by now be a thing of the past. It is never so fittingly celebrated as when Englishmen and Americans meet in honor of it at the ceremony or at the same social board."

Then, again, during the banquet, a cordial message was received by the Americans from the past and present members of Emanuel College, Cambridge, who were dining in another part of the building, which caused the Hon. Wayne Macveagh, the Irish minister, to rise and propose, in the absence of the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, the United States ambassador to the Court of St. James, to drink that blood was thicker than water. Not to be behindhand in courtesy, the Americans sent the Emanuel men a reply, proposing as a worthy sentiment of the evening the memory of John Harvard, a son of Emanuel College and the father of liberal learning in the new world.

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YANKEES IN LONDON

THEY ARE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AND SPEND MONEY LAVISHLY.

Popular with Shop Keepers and Theater Managers—Good Story About Bret Harter—Gossip of a Week.

(Copyrighted by the Associated Press.) LONDON, July 4.—The leading hostesses, in view of the waning season, the approaching dissolution of Parliament and the fierce political campaign which will follow, are doing their utmost to rush their entertainments in before election. Every night of the past week has been crowded with balls, dinners and parties of various descriptions, and those who cannot find a night during the next few days are being compelled to abandon the idea of carrying out their social programme, and will, therefore, postpone their projected entertainments or give them up altogether.

This year's invasion of London by Americans is the strongest ever known. They are to be seen at every turn, occupying the best apartments in all the popular hotels and visiting all places of interest. The leading restaurants are packed with them, and they half fill the theaters nightly. Finally, the Americans flock in crowds to the big music halls, and enjoy themselves generally in every way possible. They are good customers everywhere, free with their money and content only with the best of everything. Therefore, it need hardly be added, the London hotel keepers, restaurateurs and public entertainers are not grumbling at the so-called annual invasion.

If proof was needed of the presence here of a multitude of Americans it was furnished by the crowds of patriotic citizens of the United States who attended the several Independence day celebrations in London on Thursday last, and on Saturday, the screaming of the eagle on those occasions seemed to give the lion a certain degree of healthy satisfaction. The Daily News, for instance, commenting yesterday on the banquet of the American Society at Hilborne restaurant, said: "American Independence day was celebrated in London more publicly than on previous occasions. This is as it should be; the day brings no bitter memory to the present generation of Englishmen. But for that day and its lessons our empire might by now be a thing of the past. It is never so fittingly celebrated as when Englishmen and Americans meet in honor of it at the ceremony or at the same social board."

Then, again, during the banquet, a cordial message was received by the Americans from the past and present members of Emanuel College, Cambridge, who were dining in another part of the building, which caused the Hon. Wayne Macveagh, the Irish minister, to rise and propose, in the absence of the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, the United States ambassador to the Court of St. James, to drink that blood was thicker than water. Not to be behindhand in courtesy, the Americans sent the Emanuel men a reply, proposing as a worthy sentiment of the evening the memory of John Harvard, a son of Emanuel College and the father of liberal learning in the new world.

As a further proof of the presence here of vast throngs of Americans it may be added that at the Savoy Hotel, on this week, half a dozen famous dinners were in progress. Mr. George Gould's party was at one table and near them was the party of Mr. M. H. De Young, proprietor of the San Francisco Chronicle. At another table, Mrs. Wirt Decker of Chicago, entertaining a number of friends and there were fully twenty more persons of more or less note, and the room was crowded. The registers of Lowe's and Gill's American Exchanges show a larger number of names entered than for years past.

Mr. and Mrs. De Young arrived from Paris a few days ago and are receiving much attention in society. They have been the guests of Mrs. John W. Mackay, the wife of the late Senator, and of the late Mr. De Young, proprietor of the San Francisco Chronicle. At another table, Mrs. Wirt Decker of Chicago, entertaining a number of friends and there were fully twenty more persons of more or less note, and the room was crowded. The registers of Lowe's and Gill's American Exchanges show a larger number of names entered than for years past.

There is much dissatisfaction at the careless manner in which the mails are dispatched to the United States. The North German Lloyd company advertised a steamer to sail last Sunday and notified the post-office authorities to that effect. But without giving notice to any one or changing the advertisement, the company withdrew the steamer entirely and, in consequence, the mails waited at Southampton for several days.

Archibald Ross Colquhoun, the well-known explorer and first Governor of Mashonaland, has just returned from a several months' mission to Nicaragua, where he thoroughly inspected the Nicaraguan canal route and visited the Panama canal. He says: "From what I have seen of Nicaragua, and in a lengthy visit to the United States, especially the Southern States, I am more than ever convinced of the importance of the Nicaragua canal. It is the only route that it is only under the auspices of the United States government that the canal can be built. In my opinion, it should be of universal importance to the world. For the United States the canal will not only have the effect of developing the trade of the Pacific slope and Southern States, but will more especially open up the magnificent trade of the Mississippi and present loss to the commerce of the world."

There is much gossip among the agricultural classes in regard to the future policy of the government. A great many of the landed gentry profess to know that the Marquis of Salisbury will favor an import duty on wheat, and a number of Irish Tories are using this argument in an attempt to secure votes.

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